Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 262136

41
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 PA-02 SCSE-00 SCA-01 USIE-00

RSC-01 /016 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/PAF:RVFIMBRES:STT
APPROVED BY ARA/PAF:RVFIMBRES
ARA:HWSHLAUDEMAN (INFO)
ARA/BC:JEKARKASHIAN (INFO)
---------- 010503
O 272238Z NOV 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 262136

E.O. 11652, N/A
TAGS: CI, PFOR
SUBJECT: NOON BRIEFING

FOLLOWING IS THE EXCHANGE WITH THE PRESS AT NOON BRIEFING NOVEMBER 27, ON JACK ANDERSON'S STORY, WASH POST, "U.S. WOMAN DETAILS CHILE TORTURE:"

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE REPORTS OF THE ALLEGED TORTURE OF AN AMERICAN CITIZEN IN CHILE? I THINK THE NAME IS AMY CONGER? LET'S BROADEN THE QUESTION -- ABOUT THE TORTURE OF ANY AMERICAN CITIZENS IN CHILE IN RECENT TIMES?

A: WELL, I WAS PREPARED TO TALK TO THE SPECIFIC QUESTION, AND I WILL.

Q: WELL, TALK SPECIFICALLY ABOUT THAT, AND THEN GENERALIZE, IF YOU WOULD?

A: FIRST, WE HAVE SEEN THE REPORT, AND OUR EMBASSY HAS INFORMED US THAT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS OVER THE PAST MONTHS MISS CONGER WAS QUESTIONED BY THE CHILEAN AUTHORITIES CONCERNING HER ACTIVITIES IN THAT COUNTRY.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 262136

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

ON MORE THAN ONE CCASION, WHEN WE LEARNED THAT SHE WAS BEING INVESTIGATED OR QUESTIONED, A CONSULAR OFFICER FROM OUR EMBASSY ACCOMPANIED MISS CONGER.

ON OCTOBER 22, WE RECEIVED AN INQUIRY FROM HER FATHER IN THE UNITED STATES, EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT HER WELFARE.

FOLLOWING UP ON THAT INQUIRY, WE LEARNED THAT SHE HAD BEEN ARRESTED. THE EMBASSY IMMEDIATELY SET OUT TO OBTAIN HER RELEASE, AND IN FACT, SHE WAS RELEASED THE NEXT DAY.

AT THAT TIME, MISS CONGER WAS RELEASED TO THE CUSTODY OF THE EMBASSY CONSULAR OFFICERS, WHO REMAINED WITH HER ALMOST CONSTANTLY UNTIL HER DEPARTURE FROM CHILE.

(I MIGHT ADD THAT HER FATHER, SUBSEQUENTLY, EXPRESSED IN WRITING, HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE EMBASSY'S EFFORTS ON HIS DAUGHTER'S BEHALF.)

NOW ONE OF THE ASPECTS OF THE REPORT, THE PRESS REPORT, PROMPTS THE QUESTION: WAS THAT WE DID NOT PROTEST TO THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT ON HER TREATMENT, AND I MAKE A COUPLE OF POINTS HERE:

ONE IS THAT OUR EMBASSY MADE REPEATED REPRESENTATIONS TO THE CHILEAN AUTHORITIES CONCERNING THEIR FAILURE TO PROMPTLY INFORM US OF THE DETENTION OF AN AMERICAN CITIZEN.

WE DID NOT PROTEST THE ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE, WHICH ARE REPORTED IN THE PRESS ARTICLE, INASMUCH AS MISS CONGER DID NOT MAKE THEM KNOWN TO US WHILE SHE WAS IN CHILE NOR SUBSEQUENTLY.

FINALLY, I WOULD SAY THAT IN VIEW OF MISS CONGER'S ACCOUNT OF HER EXPERIENCE, WE HAVE ASKED OUR EMBASSY IN SANTIAGO TO REQUEST THAT THE CHILEAN AUTHORITIES CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION.

Q: DO YOU HAVE IDENTIFICATION ON HER?
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

A: AGE, DO YOU MEAN THAT SORT OF THING?
-
Q: YES. FULL NAME, AGE, ADDRESS.

A. HER FULL NAME IS: AMY CONGER. I'LL TRY AND GET THE OTHER SPECIFICS.
- --

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Q: ON THIS CASE OF AMY CONGER -- IN THE REPORT, SHE IS SAID TO BE AN ART INSTRUCTOR. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING IN YOUR INFORMATION THAT MIGHT INDICATE WHAT LED THE CHILEANS TO TAKE THESE REPEATED ACTIONS AGAINST HER? THESE INTERROGATIONS AND EVENTUALLY THE ALLEGED TORTURE?

A: NO, I DON'T.

Q: I BELIEVE SHE IS IN TOWN. ARE YOU MAKING ANY EFFORTS TO SEE HER, OR ASK HER TO DROP IN?

A: I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THAT INFORMATION.

Q: THAT IS WHAT I WAS TOLD LAST NIGHT.

A: WELL, IT MIGHT BE.

Q: DID THE CONSUL OFFICIALS NOTICE ANY EVIDENCE OF PHYSICAL ABUSE OF MISS CONGER? THEY WERE WITH HER SO MANY TIMES, YOU SAY, AND SHE SAID SHE HAD REALLY SUFFERED, AND THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN SOME SIGN.

HAD SHE NEVER COMPLAINED, OR --

A: ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION WE HAVE IN WASHINGTON, OUR EMBASSY WAS NOT AWARE OF THIS. BUT I WILL DEFER A DEFINITE COMMENT ON THIS SPECIFIC QUESTION UNTIL WE GET THE FULL REPORT FROM THE EMBASSY.

Q: THE OTHER AMERICAN THAT SHE SAID WAS IN JAIL BEING TORTURED AT THE SAME TIME -- THAT'S WHY I ASKED IF YOU COULD GENERALIZE.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

IS THERE ANY INVESTIGATION GOING ON ON THAT ACCOUNT?

A: I'LL TAKE THE QUESTION.

Q: HAVE WE SUBSEQUENTLY EXPRESSED CONCERN TO THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT ABOUT THESE PERSISTENT REPORTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS?

A: WELL WE HAVE SAID SO ON THE PUBLIC RECORD, THAT WE HAVE.

Q: YOU SAID THAT SHE DIDN'T "MAKE THEM KNOWN" THE TORTURE -- TO US, IN CHILE, OR SUBSEQUENTLY.

A: RIGHT.

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Q: WHICH INDICATES THAT YOU HAVE SEEN HER WHEN SHE -- SINCE SHE IS IN THE UNITED STATES, SINCE SHE RETURNED. IS THAT CORRECT?

A: NO, I WOULDN'T READ IT THAT WAY.

I'LL CHECK TO MAKE SURE THAT NO ONE IN THE DEPARTMENT --

Q: BUT THAT IS WHAT YOU WOULD --

A: BUT I WOULD PRESUME THAT PERHAPS BY TELEPHONE CALL, OR WRITING, OR SOMETHING OF THAT SORT -- THAT'S WHAT I WAS THINKING OF.

Q: DO YOU KNOW HOW LONG SHE WAS IN JAIL THERE?

A: SHE WAS IN AND OUT. INGERSOLL

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ATROCITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE262136
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RVFIMBRES:STT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740345-0095
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974116/aaaaaeso.tel
Line Count: 187
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 NOV 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 NOV 2002 by MorefiRH>; APPROVED <26 NOV 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NOON BRIEFING FOLLOWING IS THE EXCHANGE WITH THE PRESS AT NOON BRIEFING
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, CI, (ANDERSON, JACK)
To: SANTIAGO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005